

President Bush's 2004 Education Budget

Historic Funding Invests in Arkansas' Future

Despite all the priorities competing for our tax dollars – strengthening our economy, defending our nation, and expanding opportunities for all Americans – the President's budget **boosts education funding to \$53.1 billion** – an ***\$11 billion increase since the President first took office.***

The President's Budget Provides Historic Levels of Funding for America's Children Most in Danger of Being Left Behind by:

- ***Increasing Title I funding to \$12.4 billion*** to help children succeed in our nation's high-poverty area schools – a **41 percent increase** over funding levels when the President took office.
- ***Increasing Special Education funding to \$9.5 billion*** – **the highest level of federal funding ever requested by a President for children with disabilities** and a **50 percent increase** over funding when President Bush took office. This funding provides an estimated **\$1,426 for each of 6.6 million** special education students.
- Making higher education more accessible and affordable by ***increasing Pell Grant funding to \$12.7 billion*** – a **45 percent increase** over 2001 – and ***increasing Student Aid by nearly \$3 billion*** – a **29 percent increase** since President Bush took office.
- ***Increasing reading funding to more than \$1.1 billion*** for the President's Reading First and Early Reading First programs.
- ***Providing \$756 million to empower parents with new choices and expanded options*** if their children are not learning.
- ***Providing more than \$4.5 billion to support teachers – the heart of our schools*** – through training, recruitment, incentives, loan forgiveness, and tax relief.
- ***Providing \$390 million to help states improve accountability*** systems with annual assessments in grades 3 through 8.
- ***Providing \$300 million to increase the number of mentors*** for children in need.

Significant increases for Special Education, Title I, and Pell Grants alone comprise about **1/3 of the new discretionary dollars** the President is seeking for his entire domestic agenda. **No other domestic agency has three programs receiving such monumental increases.**

The President's Budget is Great News for Arkansas' Children & Families

- ***Increases federal education funding in Arkansas to more than \$475 million*** – \$93 million more than when the President took office.
- ***Provides nearly \$184 million to help Arkansas*** implement the reforms of No Child Left Behind.
- ***Increases Title I funding*** to more than \$111 million – \$25.7 million over 2001 levels – to help Arkansas's neediest children.
- ***Increases Special Education Grants for Arkansas*** to more than \$93 million – \$33.3 million over 2001 levels.
- ***Provides \$124 million in Federal Pell Grants*** to help ensure a college education for Arkansas students who otherwise might not be able to afford one.
- ***Provides access to more than \$11 million in Reading First funding*** to ensure that every child in Arkansas learns to read by the third grade.
- ***Provides more than \$27.5 million to attract and retain highly-qualified teachers*** in Arkansas classrooms.
- ***Provides more than \$5 million for annual assessments*** so every mom and dad in Arkansas will know how well their children are learning and where they need improvement.

The President's budget reflects his strong commitment to the people of Arkansas. It works to strengthen our investment in our nation's economic future – one child at a time.

*Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. All dollar amounts are estimates as of 3/3/03.
For more information, please visit: www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov*